

WILDLIFE DAMAGE

REVIEW

SPRING 1999

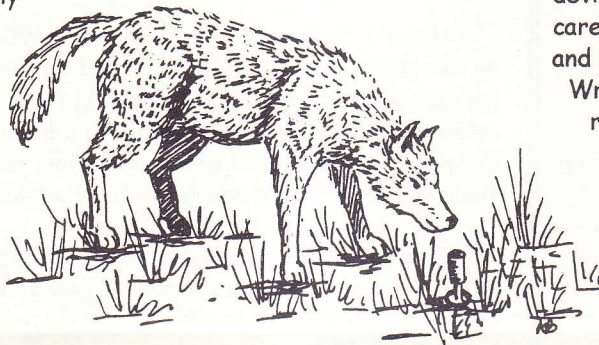
NUMERO DOCE

ADC'S ILLEGALLY PLACED M-44 KILLS FAMILY PET WHILE CHILD & FATHER LOOK ON

Early this March, Paul Wright, his three-year old daughter, Meaghan, and their dog, Bob, were walking across their yard near Crawford, in northwestern Colorado, when Bob found a delectably scented, partially buried object. A slight tug with his inquisitive mouth, and before Paul and Meaghan's horrified eyes, their pet yelped, stiffened and died. Bob is the latest in the growing number of pet fatalities caused by the incompetence of the USDA's Animal Damage Control (ADC) (aka Wildlife Services) lethal predator control program. The very scary part is that it could easily have been Meaghan bending over to examine the strange object.

Bob was killed by an "M-44," a lethal device that supposedly targets coyotes, but that "accidentally" kills

numerous other species. The spring-loaded devices are baited with enticing scents, and then when an animal tugs at it, it ejects sodium cyanide granules into its nose and mouth.



April Baisan

A sometimes violent, convulsive death comes within a few minutes.

In response to Bob's death, ADC District Director, David Moreno, and

two other ADC personnel met with the Wrights and tape recorded their interview. They then walked the property together, and because Moreno had no idea where other devices might be, he walked very carefully. Moreno did, in fact, find and remove another M-44! Mrs.

Wright was told that Moreno would return the following day with the ADC agent that had originally placed the M-44s, in order to locate any other devices on their property. They never showed. She later learned that he and the agent had returned the previous evening, without permission--ADC's second trespass to remove the rest of the devices.

Many EPA regulations were overlooked which set the scene for this

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AERIAL GUNNING IN ARIZONA

BY FAITH WALKER

Once again, our federal agencies are shooting scientific blanks. And they're lethal. By the time you read this, the Arizona Game and Fish Department will have completed their short-sighted aerial coyote shoot north of the Peaks on Anderson Mesa and the Arizona Strip. The goal is to increase the number of pronghorn in this area by decreasing coyote-caused fawn mortality. This project, justified by so-called scientific research, is not based on modern-day science. It is the brainchild of the Animal Damage Control (ADC), the branch of USDA responsible for killing wildlife.

There is no evidence that it will bolster pronghorn numbers for the long term. In fact, published scientific research suggests it will have no effect, or even the opposite effect. Research over the past 25 years by prominent coyote biologists Crabtree, Davidson, Knowlton, and Sterling et al. show that killing coyotes ultimately increases their population size. This is because mated pairs maintain territories for long periods of time, often past the age at which female fertility declines. When a coyote killing program eliminates these animals, territories are filled by young dispersers.

These coyotes, released from population constraints, breed at much younger ages and have litters with elevated survival rates. Litter sizes can be larger following a coyote killing program due to the sudden increase in available food for pups (empty niches).

I learned from participation in a pronghorn research project at the National Bison Range, Montana, that pronghorn fawn mortality often returns to its previous level one year following coyote killing; pronghorn survival would likely increase there if

(Continued on Page 10)





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WDR heartily thanks the following foundations for their important contributions to WDR programs this past year: Suzan R. Mackler Fund, Summerlee Foundation, Harris Foundation, Fund for Wild Nature, Rockwood Fund, Ahimsa Foundation, Wyss Foundation, Common Counsel, Peradam, and the Barbara Delano Foundation.

Special thanks go to our loyal supporters and volunteers who also want to see an end to the ADC program.

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Hello all! Things are movin' and shakin' around the Wildlife Damage Review (WDR) office! We've seen quite a few changes over the last few months:

Two new staff members have joined WDR--April Baisan and Michelle Taylor. Both are enthusiastic activists, and we expect to make a pretty formidable team!

To prove that we are ready to move into the next century, we have completed our web site, thanks to the vision and efforts of Corey, our Technological Advisor. We always appreciate comment and critique, so please check it out at www.azstarnet.com/~wdr. You can send Corey a direct message about the web by e-mail to WDR2@azstarnet.com.

We've also established an email action alert list to help us circulate hot issues and stimulate appropriate action. It has been active now for several months and we are trying not to overload the system. We usually send out a few alerts per month. If you would like to join in the fun, send your email address to us at wdr@azstarnet.com

Hot off the press! We now offer a WDR t-shirt. Our mountain lion logo is on the front, and on the back is a design that, in a nutshell, illustrates ADC's impact on native wildlife. See page 11 for a drawing of the design and ordering information. A huge THANK YOU to Jim Morris Environmental T-shirt Company for the in-kind donation of time, labor and material! You can order their spiffy catalog through the "Marketplace" link on our website.

Corey's Aquaculture Industry report that he presented at the "Dissecting ADC" conference last September is now available. The report introduces the aquaculture business, its pitfalls, and discusses some solutions to current problems. Send \$5 to cover postage and printing (or you can download a copy from our website, minus the pictures).

We've also been up to our ears in 1) accelerating our Anti-Poisons Campaign, 2) working to cut ADC's budget by \$10 million during the annual appropriations process (remember that last year we won a \$10 million cut... for a day), and 3) developing ways to shut down ADC's aerial gunning program. Activists in Colorado have stopped aerial gunning for the last two years (see article on Page 10). We are compiling this "how-to" information to use in shutting down aerial gunning west-wide. There's no logical reason that ADC should be the only exception to the Airborne Hunting Act.

We are still battling the contest "hunting" issue--killing numbers of wildlife, often predators, for prizes. Arizona's Game & Fish Commission has a chance to ban these kinds of events but seems to need more pressure from hunters to finalize this vote. We've been working to generate such pressure here in Arizona, however, these contests occur in every western state.

WDR has begun to advocate, along with many grassroots groups, the protection of prairie dogs throughout the west. We are working with a coalition of organizations in the southwest to bring back the black-tailed prairie dog in Arizona (where they were extirpated in the 1930s) and stop poisoning programs. We will be passing along more prairie dog information in later issues.

And finally, The Review, this newsletter, has become a quarterly. The next issue will be shorter, but you will be receiving them more frequently, and on a regular basis in May, August, November, and February.

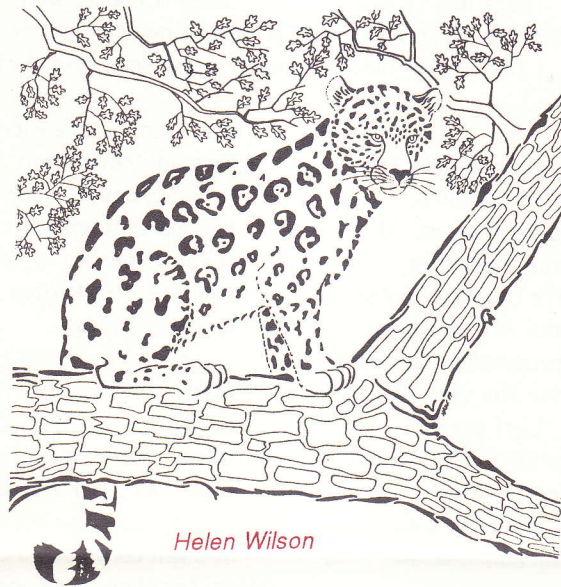
WDR SUES ADC FOR FAILING TO PROTECT THE JAGUAR

In February Wildlife Damage Review filed a lawsuit against Animal Damage Control (ADC) for not following endangered species laws. ADC is required to consult with Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) when new species are listed under the Endangered Species Act, and when ADC's actions may threaten those species. The consultation should then result in a Biological Opinion (BO) written by FWS, which lists the new species and the mitigating measures ADC is required to take to avoid harming them. A BO was last done in 1992—before the jaguar was listed and the Mexican wolf reintroduced into the southwest.

The jaguar was finally listed as an endangered species in the U.S. in August 1997, in response to (yet another) lawsuit forcing FWS to do its job. Little is known about the jaguar's needs and habits, thus FWS has yet to designate critical habitat. The jaguar's primary need is for outright protection—they could do well if they were not continually shot.

In 1996, two jaguars were seen in Arizona and, luckily, were photographed instead of shot. The photographers who chose not to kill the jaguar were both from Arizona's ranching community. Prior to that, the last jaguar sighted

in the southwest was shot in 1987 by a rancher whose reputation is well-known. He boasted to his bar buddies about the dirty deed and then threatened to kill anyone who ratted on him to the feds. Indeed, no one ever came forward to help prosecute.



ADC has also been active in the areas where jaguar have been spotted in recent years. Though traps, snares and poisons are illegal to use on public lands in Arizona (since 1994), even by ADC, this is not so on private land. In New Mexico, anything goes. Numerous NM ranchers have been "certified" to utilize lethal devices, such as M-44s (sodium cyanide ejectors), on public and private land. Toxic collars containing Compound 1080 are also in use. These devices set along the border country threaten the existence of jaguars.

To support jaguar recovery, the Malpai Borderlands Group (comprised of southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico ranchers) has created a special fund to compensate ranchers who have valid claims that jaguar have killed their livestock. The Group has vowed to be protectors of this magnificent cat by keeping an eye and ear out for illegal deeds, and cooperating with FWS to end persecution of these cats.

NATIONAL BILL INTRODUCED TO BAN TRAPS

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (NY) has just introduced a bill that would prohibit the sale of any fur from the use of steel-jawed traps, padded or not, in the U.S. Such a law would eliminate most trapping in the nation. The bill will affect the ADC program, but to what extent is not known. ADC does generate revenue for the program through the sale of pelts. The European Union Community (EU) has been dealing with this issue for many years. Currently, there are 88 member countries that have banned the use of steel-jawed traps. Intense lobbying by the U.S. and Canada have bullied the EU into lessening the humane standards for trapping for furs, and have continued to jeopardize species that are in trouble, such as lynx, wolverine, fisher, marten, and southern border cats.

The bill, HR1581, has 62 co-sponsors at this time and the support of several who are influential at the various committee levels. Your Congressional representatives need to hear from you that passage of this bill is important. Many of our native forest dwellers are in trouble. If trapping for furs was made illegal in this country, it would go a long way toward protecting those species. The lynx is still not listed due to pressure from the trapping industry.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please urge your Congressional Representative to sign on in support of this bill.

GETTING SERIOUS: WDR GOES TO WASHINGTON

Green Scissors, a coalition of organizations concerned with how Congress (mis)spends our tax dollars, included Animal Damage Control (ADC) spending in their first edition 1995 Report to Congress, and every year since. Their annual report includes short articles identifying "pork barrel" programs that need to be dumped by Congress--those Congress voted to support in the past. There are 72 programs highlighted in the 1999 Report that, if cut, would save more than \$50 billion over the next five years--money that could be better spent elsewhere.

This year, our growing coalition of organizations (the Humane Society of the U.S., Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Earth, Taxpayers for Common Sense, U.S. PIRG, Predator Project, Animal Protection Institute, Predator Defense Institute, and Wildlife Damage Review) intends to force significant change in the ADC program. We have targeted the Agricultural Appropriations process, through which a budget is hashed out for the various ag. programs for the upcoming fiscal year. Last year an amendment was attached to the appropriations bill which cut ADC funding by \$10 million, intended to eliminate their lethal predator control program. It passed--for a day--until the surprised Republican leadership had time to regroup, lobby the members of the Appropriations Committee, and call for a revote.

Congressmen Peter DeFazio (OR) and Charles Bass (NH) led the charge last year and have agreed to do it again this year. They are introducing a free-standing bill asking for the same \$10 million cut to ADC's program. It's a simple bill with specific language addressing the funds and program to be cut. Although it does not eliminate ADC's entire program, WDR is pleased to support this effort--ADC should not be killing native predators with our tax dollars in order to support a few lazy corporate ranching interests. They need to get out and take care of their own herds.

Our growing and committed coalition intends to see the passage of this bill. We have planned a Congressional briefing where we will deliver critical testimony to Congress and to the media. We will share with them evidence of the abuse and illegal actions ADC employees have perpetuated on citizens and neighbors across the west. We will declare loud and clear that spending tax dollars on this program is not only a waste, but harmful in many respects.

Several of us from western organizations will be going to Washington soon to deliver the message in person. Help

strengthen our impact by acting now, before we go at the end of May, so that we will have Congressional awareness and support when we get there.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send a message to Congress this year that lethal predator control has no place in sound wildlife management programs, and that ADC's credentials stink.

- * Ask your Congressional representatives now to support this bill (refer to it as the "DeFazio/Bass Bill to cut lethal predator control"). If they are non-receptive, call more often and cc: that information to your favorite person in the Clinton administration. Send them personal notes stating that your Congress person is ignoring you.
- * Media can be our friend in this fight, so send them op. ed. pieces about ADC. Write about personal experiences. Be passionate! It will motivate others to write also. Let's get this issue IN THE NEWS.

We will continue to update you through email action alerts, for those who are tuned in electronically. We may also be sending you a post card or special mailing asking for specific actions.

ALSO ON OUR WASHINGTON AGENDA...

BAN SODIUM CYANIDE & COMPOUND 1080

As part of our Anti-Poisons Campaign, WDR and Predator Education Fund (from SLC, UT) will present to President Clinton in May thousands of signatures asking him to ban M-44s (deadly sodium cyanide ejectors) and Compound 1080 (used in toxic collars on goats and sheep). Both of these devices used by ADC and ranchers were developed to kill coyotes, yet both also kill "accidental" species. Human deaths from 1080 have not been recorded since the 1980s, but there have been at least 13 documented cases of accidental poisoning, and other 1080 deaths attributed to "suicides." We know of one human death from an M-44 in 1971 when a surveyor died after he was sent home from an emergency room--they had no idea what the device was that had injured him.

While in Washington we will ask Pres. Clinton to commit to banning these poison devices and we will be prepared to draft an agreement on paper. It will be especially important to continue pressuring the Administration and Congress to support the ban, following our trip to Washington. **Please continue to sign and circulate the petition**, and send it directly to President Clinton. A petition is included as an insert in this newsletter, and can also be found on our website.

**BAN COMPOUND 1080 AND SODIUM CYANIDE
FROM OUR PUBLIC LANDS**

Dear President Clinton,

We, the undersigned, urge you to reinstate the ban on the chemical agent commonly known as Compound 1080, and to ban the use of sodium cyanide devices known as M-44s. President Nixon, in signing Executive Order 11643 in 1971, banned the use of 1080 and other chemicals for use as predacides, and the use of any chemical which exhibits secondary poisoning effects. This ban was later reversed during the Reagan Administration.

One teaspoon of 1080 is capable of killing between 30 and 100 adults. A quarter of this amount could kill the same number of 35-pound children. Indeed, there are 13 documented fatal cases of 1080 poisoning in humans, including children. Compound 1080 is used to control predators, particularly coyotes. Its toxic effects can kill other wildlife scavenging on the dead victims of this horrific poison, and has in the past had lasting impacts upon our environment.

M-44 sodium cyanide devices are indiscriminate killers placed throughout much of our public lands. These devices are set by federal trappers with the intent of killing coyotes. Unfortunately, pets are often the victims of these deadly devices. In Fiscal Year 1995 alone, 3,440 nontarget animals were killed by M-44s, including 286 domestic dogs.

These predacides are not effective wildlife management or depredation prevention tools. Ranchers have several other options for protecting their investments. These predacides pose a risk to the public and to the environment we share with wildlife. Please put an end to the use of these toxic devices on our public lands once and for all.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Please return to: President Bill Clinton, The White House, Washington DC 20500

YEAH, THE INSURANCE IS CHEAP. . . BUT IS IT WORTH IT?

How many of you belong to the American Farm Bureau (AFB)? Perhaps you want to take advantage of the cheap insurance rates they offer, like the 10-20% of members who are actually farmers and ranchers, but are you aware of AFB's bottom line?

Last February Defenders of Wildlife attended AFB's National Convention in Albuquerque to inform attendees that their AFB memberships supported elimination of the wolf in the U.S. AFB has filed lawsuits to reverse reintroductions of wolves in Yellowstone, as well as to prevent efforts to restore wild Mexican Gray wolves, a subspecies smaller than the northern grays. Wildlife Damage Review and others have joined with Defenders as intervenors in this suit, to ensure that the wolves stay put.

Defenders held a press conference at the AFB convention which was attended by WDR. Kent Webber of *Mission: Wolf*, and Rami, a female ambassador wolf who can't be released back to the wild, were also present. Rami travels occasionally with Kent to educate members of the press and public about wolf behavior. After marking her territory (peeing on the rug), she circled the press (largely from ag. publications) and panel members a few times, jumped up on the table where the Defenders panel was sitting, and began nuzzling them. Apparently it was as obvious to her as it was to the rest of us who the "good guys" were.

The USDA estimates that the number of full-time farmers in the nation is just over one million. Yet AFB has more than 4.7 million members. This means that most members have nothing to do with providing food for the nation, but they do add substantially to AFB's power and money base. Their lobbyists wield tremendous power and influence, which explains why ag-related programs such as ADC survive. In fact, one of their lobbyists (Jon Doggett) admitted that it was AFB interference that reversed last year's vote to cut ADC's funding by \$10 million. Interestingly, Doggett was head of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS) Law Enforcement Division until a year and a half ago when he started his new job with the Farm Bureau, indicating perhaps why FWS has consistently refused to prosecute criminals who bait carcasses with poisons to kill wildlife all over the country, and why they do not back up their enforcement personnel in the field.

You should also be aware of some the more frightening resolutions adopted at AFB's latest convention:

- 1) Animal Welfare—"We oppose legislation that would give animal rights organizations or any public agency the right to establish standards for the raising, handling, feeding, housing, or transportation of livestock,

poultry, aquaculture and fur-bearing animals."
"We oppose the legislation which would prohibit or unduly restrict the use of animals in research."

- 2) Privatizing Public Land Grazing Permits—"Be it resolved that the NMF&LB (New Mexico Farm & Labor Bureau) defends the right of the lessee to sell, borrow against, or pass on to the heirs these leases."
- 3) Endangered Species Act—"...Many predators such as the grizzly bear and some wolf species are contributing very little tangible benefit to the American people, and the extinction of the dinosaur, brontosaurus, pterodactyl, sabertooth tiger and countless other species is not hindering the occupation of Earth by the human race, and therefore be it resolved NMF&LB strongly urges that the Endangered Species Act be reworted. . ."
- 4) Mexican Gray Wolf—"The NMF&LB adamantly opposes the reintroduction efforts being perpetuated on a handful of the citizens of New Mexico by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arizona Game & Fish Department, New Mexico Game & Fish Department, and eco-preservationist groups."
- 5) Opposed to Local Pesticide Regulation—"...strongly supports legislation giving New Mexico the right to preempt local regulation." (There are also several resolutions in favor of allowing the use of banned pesticides.)

(Continued on Page 7)



WOLF UPDATE

MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES

The effort to reintroduce the Mexican Gray Wolf back into the wilds of Arizona and New Mexico has not, as of yet, fared well--due not to wolves' failure to adapt, but to human failure to allow successful reintroduction.

The Mexican Gray Wolf is a subspecies of shorter stature than the northern wolf. Gray wolves probably co-evolved with Coue's White-tailed Deer, a small subspecies of white-tail that inhabits the southwest. Until last year, Mexican Gray Wolves existed only in zoos and pen rearing facilities. As far as is known, none has existed in the wild since 1978 when the last five were removed by trapper and lion hunter Roy McBride of Texas (who was also implicated in the WY sting).

In March 1998, eleven wolves comprising three packs were freed in the Blue Mountains release area in eastern Arizona. It was hoped that the alpha female in each would bear pups. The wolves fared amazingly well, especially since none of them had ever lived wild--learning how to hunt, dig dens, etc. It wasn't long before evidence showed that they had taken down an old elk and were eating rodents. Biologists tracking the wolves with radio collars noted that within a month's time, all of the wolves had apparently dug dens.

Unfortunately, none of the pups survived very long. Possibly the stress of learning how to make a living in record time took its toll. In the end, about half were shot, one was hit by a vehicle, the rest recaptured because of lingering too close to roads and human habitation. No one has been cited by US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the wolf killings.

This winter, FWS released more wolves. Currently, there are five wolves in the wild, and plans to release more soon, hopefully in more

remote locations.

A reward of \$50,000 has been offered for the conviction of the wolf killers. We hope that anyone traveling in the area (since FWS refuses to close roads in the area or prohibit camping) will keep their eyes open and report anyone appearing suspicious. Get in the habit of writing down license numbers and descriptions of people. Record your observations. You never know when that kind of information may come in handy.

a move may reduce wolves to the point where they require re-listing. Apparently, state leaders do not value wolves enough to adopt protective measures.

The Minnesota wolf population has been steadily growing and successfully recovering. Too successfully, according to well-known wolf biologist David Mech. In a series of articles chronicling the state's effort to develop a management plan to prepare for delisting, Mech suggests there are



Lezlie Williams

MINNESOTA WOLVES

Minnesota is the only state in the contiguous U.S. where wolves are listed as "threatened" rather than "endangered." And it appears that wolves may soon be delisted in Minnesota--the question is when?

The state initiated a round table to devise a management plan for when the delisting takes place. However, the plan was recently shredded by the Minnesota legislature, who has its own plans to introduce legislation allowing hunting and trapping of wolves. Such

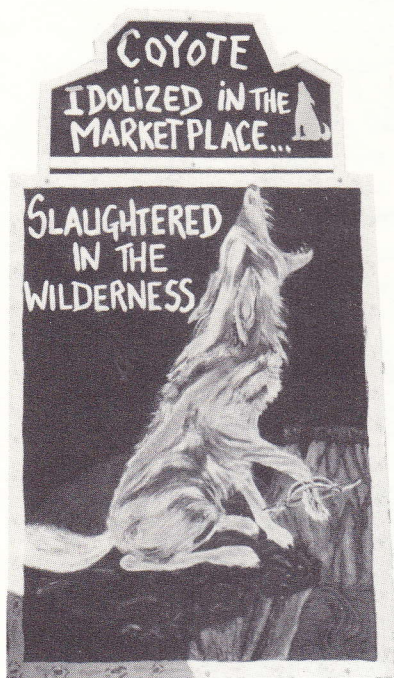
already too many wolves--not because the habitat can't support them, but because wolves migrating into more agricultural areas cause conflict with humans. Mech feels the population will continue to grow, more conflict will ensue, and consequently, there should be a population limit for wolves. Mech goes on to say that wolf numbers should be managed to stay below that limit, and he goes so far as to declare that poison use may be the only way to achieve that limit, as wolves are prolific breeders!

(Continued from previous page)

Obviously there are still many people who have a low tolerance for wildlife in their neighborhood. ADC kills 150-200 wolves annually for those people in Minnesota. The problem, once again, is that the people who call on ADC have no responsibility to protect their livestock before complaining to the government. They're not required to fence, night pen, have guard animals or herders--nothing. ADC has become a subsidy for those who are too lazy to help themselves.

OREGON WOLF!

A lone female wolf wandered from Idaho, swam the Snake River, and entered Oregon a few weeks ago. Though she had not killed any livestock, she did have one Oregon official nervous, who said, "We aren't ready for wolves yet." Since Oregon has not yet established a recovery plan, they appear a little insecure about having one of these magnificent and adaptable creatures in their midst! Perhaps Oregon officials need to hear that there are many who would value a chance to see and hear a wild wolf in their neighborhood.



courtesy of Animal Protection of New Mexico

("Yeah, the Insurance...Continued from Page 5)

- 6) Right to Know—"Be it resolved that all agricultural activities, including cultivation of land for the production of agricultural crops, poultry, production of eggs, production of milk, production of fruit, or other horticultural crops, grazing or the production of livestock and spraying and harvesting, be exempt from Right to Know."
- 7) Meat Safety—AFB opposes the Food and Drug Administration agency getting involved (i.e., in meat inspections).
- 8) EPA Regulations—"...oppose the unnecessary regulatory burdens proposed by the EPA," with specific opposition to regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (for example, hog farms).
- 9) Farm Labor—AFB wants more migrant workers from Mexico, but opposes paying minimum wage to workers traveling on a portal to portal basis. They also oppose paying minimum wage for any waiting time at the field, before or after completion of their work assignment. "Be it resolved NMF&LB continue working to keep agriculture exempt from workers compensation administration regulations."

Write to Defenders of Wildlife for a copy of their Fall 1998 issue that includes the article "Farm Bureau vs. Nature." It contains information that we all should know.

Defenders of Wildlife
1101 14th St NW #1400
Washington, DC 20005-5606
www.defenders.org
202-682-9400

PERPETUATING PREDATOR PREJUDICE

There have been a series of articles lately about the fierce and savage nature of predators in several outdoor and hunting publications, including *Outdoor Life* (winter and spring 1999 issues), *Range Magazine* (winter 1998-99), and *Field & Stream* (November 1998). It appears to be a conspiratorial effort to try to work the public into a lather and to promote fear of native predators such as lions, wolves, coyotes and grizzlies.

Recent wolf reintroduction efforts have proved very successful in Yellowstone, yet there is a vociferous group still opposed to the reintroduction. They have filed a lawsuit to try to end this effort and to stop future reintroductions of other species. This adamant opposition, led by the American Farm Bureau and cattlegrowers organizations, has probably been responsible for the articles designed to resurrect fabled fears of predators. Excuses for advocating the slaughter of predators run the usual ignorant gamut: to save livestock, deer, antelope, elk, and children.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Hunters and others who know better, please write to these publications and let them know you're not amused.

tragedy. Perhaps the most flagrant violation was that M-44s are not to be placed "in areas where exposure to the public and family and pets is probable" or near public roads or pathways. Other regulations ignored by the federal agent who set the devices are as follows:

- Placing M-44s on private property without the landowner's permission is strictly illegal. The Wright's did not give their permission for this action, nor were they notified of their use next door.
- Signage was inadequate. The regs state that a sign must be posted within 25 feet of each device with an arrow pointed toward it, as well as at access points to areas in which M-44s are used. A sign was found nailed to a tree 40 feet away from the device that killed Bob.
- The regs state that M-44s shall not be placed within 200 feet of any body of water. The two devices found on the Wright's property were within 5-10 feet of running ditch water that had created a swampy area. A device nearby on the rancher's property was within the same swampy area.
- The Wright's grow garlic on their land close to the area in which the M-44s were placed. Yet M-44s "shall not be placed in areas where food crops are planted."
- Area health facilities are to be notified when M-44s are used, and to be advised of antidotal and first-aid measures for cyanide poisoning. This notification is the responsibility of the supervisor of the ADC field agent. The rather vague regulations do not specify how often they need to be contacted nor how close to the time

of placements. Our investigation revealed that a clinic 12 miles away in Paonia had a flyer dated 1996, which described Sodium Cyanide treatment. St. Mary's Hospital, the large area hospital in Grand Junction, was unfamiliar with poisonous predator control devices. The Poison Control Center in Denver commented that there would be a dangerous time lag involved for treatment of a poison victim when there was no information as to what the poison was.

The Wright family is not alone--this is NOT an isolated incident. There were 237 domestic dogs reported killed by ADC in 1997 (the latest figures available). Besides canines, almost 2 dozen other species were reported to have died as a result of contact with an M-44). ADC's continued use of poisons that affect non-target species, and that sometimes cause secondary poisoning, guarantees that pets will continue to be killed, as well as other creatures, and perhaps even humans. Indeed, according to our FOIA (Freedom of Information Act request) of ADC

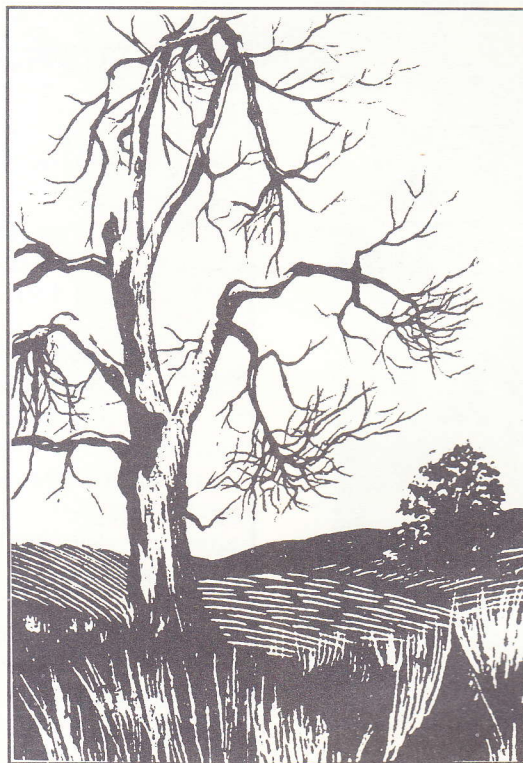
records, the years 1985-1995 saw 21 incidents of human injuries with M-44s. One death is on record, that of a surveyor in 1971.

This incident once more clearly illustrates the need for a complete and immediate halt to the use of all poisons used by a government agency responsive only to the agricultural industry. WDR is pressuring Congress for a thorough investigation of ADC's poison use records.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send a letter to you Congressperson and Senator regarding ADC poison use.

If you know of similar incidents, send us copies of the story--from print media, reports or simple write-ups by the people it happened to. Pictures accompanying the story always help. Try to obtain reports of such information from your local county predator control boards, ADC office, or state agriculture predator control offices. Send us copies. If it happened to you, write a letter to your local paper for publishing.



Lezle Williams

AS IF WE NEED MORE REASONS TO BAN ADC'S POISON ARSENAL...

* Between 1985-95 there were 21 reported instances of human poisoning cases with M-44s. While most involved ADC trappers, four were unknowing members of the public. None of these resulted in death, as sodium cyanide does have an antidote. The only reported death from these devices (that we are aware of) was in 1971 to a surveyor.

* In 1994, in Oregon, a woman's dog was killed by an illegally set M-44 on her land (without permission) by ADC. She suffered secondary poisoning after trying to resuscitate her dog.

* In February 1995, a Texas woman lost her dog to an M-44. It was set on her neighbors' land, without her knowledge. Vultures led her to her missing pet. There were also other M-44s illegally set too close to roads.

* In May 1996, ADC trappers from the Las Cruces, New Mexico office set M-44s on public land at the request of four local ranchers. Due to ADC's attempts to proceed without public knowledge, volunteers with Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) gathered cameras and notepads to document ADC's actions. What they found were numerous violations of EPA regulations for M-44s use. After carefully documenting these violations, APNM turned over their evidence to New Mexico Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Division (enforcement), who then began their own investigation. That resulted in the discovery of yet more violations: ADC had not notified local hospitals, nor were any of the ADC district personnel certified to use poisons (eight trappers and their supervisor)!

ADC sent their Washington, DC attorneys to New Mexico to handle the situation, and the arbitration resulted in a mere \$1,000 fine, and a stipulation that all employees take the certification test for M-44 use. The test was given more than once, as several employees flunked it on the first time around. Curiously, the state investigator no longer works for the New Mexico Ag. Department.

* In Feb. 1998, a family in rural Oregon went searching for their dogs that escaped from their kennel. What they found instead was a horrific pile of wildlife carcasses being used as bait for the surrounding ADC snares and traps, not far from their property. In fact, there were three similar piles, one which included a golden retriever puppy snared around the neck, but not yet dead. The imbedded snare had to be surgically removed from the skin by a veterinarian. We're happy to report that the puppy did live. The other

otters, beavers, coyotes, skunks, dogs, opossums, domestic sheep and birds were not so lucky. An investigation by a local TV reporter revealed a crumpled and hidden (by ADC) sign indicating that M-44s had also been in use and had killed four coyotes also found in the carcass piles.

* In July 1998, a Sprague River, Oregon man lost his black lab to an ADC trap. It was set in a neighbor's pasture, but no one had checked on the trap line and the dog died from heat exposure. She had tags that identified the owner. The head of a pony and part of a calf were nearby for baiting animals into the trap. There were no signs visible, even though M-44s were also being used in the area. None of the immediate neighbors had been notified that either traps or poisons were being used.

* In December 1998, an M-44 illegally set by ADC on public land in Wyoming killed an endangered wolf. It is ADC's responsibility to maintain a current database of threatened and endangered species and to consult with Fish and Wildlife Service to make sure that ADC's lethal arsenal does not jeopardize listed species. ADC was clearly in the wrong by using these devices in the wolf country of north-central Wyoming.

* On March 3, 1999, a family dog was killed in rural western Colorado by an M-44 illegally set on private property (without permission) by ADC. The family's three-year old daughter witnessed the death, and could easily have been poisoned herself (see article Page 1).

* April 1999. The state of Oregon is pushing legislation to allow M-44 use by any citizen who can pass the state's test. Since most of these kinds of laws are engineered and supported by the livestock industry and the Farm Bureau, look for similar legislation in your state soon. A spate of legislation to bring back bounties for coyotes and wolves is appearing lately in numerous states, including eastern states.

These continuous chains of illegal and dangerous activities have spurred Wildlife Damage Review to ask for a Congressional investigation into why these events continue despite the many assurances from ADC that ultimate care is taken and attention paid to following policy and the law. It is quite obvious that ADC still has many "bad apples" and is making no attempt to rid themselves of those in order to bolster the "professionalism" of the program. It is our goal to ensure ADC's evolution, one way or another.

survival would likely increase there if coyotes were not systematically killed every few years. Then coyotes would be able to establish and maintain territories past the age of maximum fertility. I therefore predict that following the aerial coyote shoot, of which this is the second of a planned annual three, fawn mortality will return to or exceed initial levels. By disrupting coyote population dynamics, the Game and Fish Department and ADC are entering into a cycle of repetitious killing programs, at considerable expense to taxpayers and to ecological integrity.

It is important to realize that habitat loss, not coyotes, is the problem. Shooting coyotes is very much a relic of the past, when we did not have a grasp on how ecological systems function. We now know that predators are not bad, evil, or an erroneous evolutionary fluke; they are essential. Why our agencies are so slow to understand basic ecological principles is baffling. We should be focusing on restoring and improving pronghorn habitat. These animals were once so abundant that Flagstaff was named Antelope Springs. The efficacious method to increase pronghorn numbers is to dismantle or modify fencing by removing the bottom strand (they cannot jump over fences, but will go under), to remove competitors (cattle), and to not hunt them. It's that simple. Our agencies are instead using antiquated methods via an antiquated department (the ADC) for an antiquated reason to conserve wildlife: Hunting.

Hunting. It is ludicrous that these agencies employ radical, unethical, and ecologically unsound measures in the

name of increasing the pronghorn population in order to support an activity that decreases it. Science. It is irresponsible for these agencies to ignore fundamental coyote research while supporting their project with research that cannot be found in the scientific literature. Obsolete. It is about time that the ADC dissolve, that the agencies empowered to conserve wildlife put down their guns and pick up a 1990's textbook.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write, or better yet, call or fax the following and demand that they :

- do site specific environmental assessments, including public input.
- produce long-term, inter-agency wildlife and habitat management plans with yearly updates on results.
- provide consistent information to the public on aerial gunning locations, announced prior to the gunning for the safety of the public.

1. Duane Shroufe, Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters, 2221 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85023; Tel: (602) 942-3000; Fax: 602-789-3299

2. Flagstaff Game and Fish Department office, 3500 S. Lake Mary Rd., Flagstaff, AZ 86001; Tel: (520) 774-5045

COLORADO AERIAL GUNNING SHUT DOWN

Last month (April), pressure from local organizations forced Animal Damage Control (ADC) to shut down the planned aerial gunning for coyotes in a wilderness study area on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. Just one rancher's request instigated approval by BLM for ADC to conduct a five-month aerial gunning program over the Castle Peaks Wilderness Study Area.

Activists came unglued. Not only did this plan violate BLM's current policy for specifically targeting only the "offending animal," but such activity would also diminish wilderness values and be quite disturbing to local native fauna. And the lynx, proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, could be jeopardized by such a program.



Last year in the southwestern part of the state, activists shut down a plan by ADC to gun coyotes up and down the front range over Forest Service lands. Local media (the Durango Herald) ran a series of articles about the ADC program and their plans for the area. Activists kept up the pressure until ADC cancelled the entire gunning program. Although La Plata County (where Durango is located) still supports a county trapper, the county supervisors voted not to support an aerial gunning program. Thanks to local activists at Sinapu, San Juan Audubon, and others for their hard work to promote ADC awareness and needed change.

photo by Jarid Manos of Great Plains Restoration Council

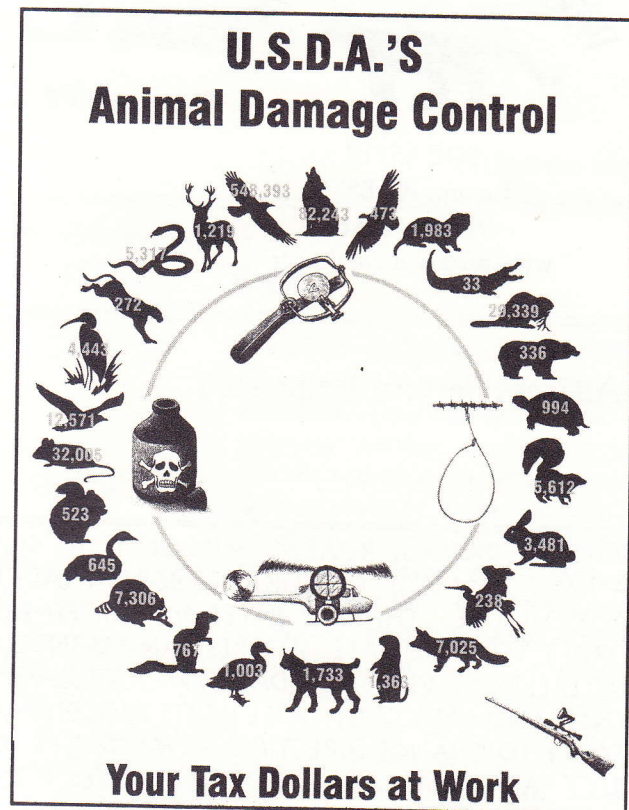
NEW! WDR T-SHIRT

With a lot of help from Jim Morris Environmental T-shirt Company, Wildlife Damage Review is now offering a t-shirt that carries the message about ADC's program. Our design was augmented by the artwork of Doug Moore, a frequent contributor to WDR. The kill figures (from fiscal year 1997) are the latest available from ADC.

We offer long and short-sleeved shirts. Long-sleeved are available in "stone-wash green" (not really stone-washed; it's only a color name) in sizes large, extra-large, or XX. The cost, including postage, is \$18 per shirt.

The short-sleeved shirts are available in stone-wash green or pebble (dark tan). Sizes are large, extra-large, or XX. The cost is \$14 including shipping.

To order, just make a check to WDR. If you are ordering several, you may want to send your street address so that we can ship them via UPS (we can track the shipment this way). For those with access to the internet, you will find a link to Jim Morris' t-shirt company (Boulder, CO) and can order through their catalog as well. They have lots of wonderful shirt designs, and Jim supports several organizations through the sale of these shirts....including WDR!



WDR'S REGISTRY OF RESPONSIBLE RANCHERS & FARMERS SPOTLIGHT ON GEOFF MAVIS

Last year, WDR began a registry of "predator friendly" ranchers and farmers who do not allow government-sponsored wildlife killing on their ranches and farms. We wanted to let you know that there are ranchers and farmers who understand the value of having predators and other wildlife on their land.

The following was excerpted from an article published in *Ohio Farmer*, Mid-January 1997 issue, about our latest registrant, to illustrate some innovative strategies for keeping wildlife populations on lands used to grow crops and livestock.

Geoff Mavis owns 835 acres of land in Ohio, most of which has been in the family since 1832. In the early 1990s a program run by the county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) convinced Mavis to try land restoration techniques on his farm. In 1991, he planted 5,000 mixed hardwoods and evergreens on his property which acted as windbreaks and provided a winter food source, attracting wildlife.

Two years later, Mavis built a 5 acre wetland with financial aid from the Natural Resources Conservation

Service and advice from the county Conservation Resource Program. The new wetland protected water quality at the well-head area on Mavis' land where a creek runs through, and provided natural filtration of the ground water. It also attracted waterfowl and other migrating birds, along with squirrels, hawks, bats, fox and coyotes.

Mavis sees the results as a definite advantage. "With enough of the right sort of habitat and cover (no more than 5-10% of your farm), you can have every native predator and prey living together....and you can have any kind of livestock production (provided they are kept in a healthy, secure environment) with minimal loss to wild predators. . . people are seeing for themselves that farming alongside predators and prey can co-exist and even provide for a healthy and wondrous environment."

The Ohio Division of Wildlife offers services that other states should pay attention to: free nesting boxes, native grasses, help to establish wildlife food-growing plots, and cooperative hunting permits to benefit private landowners and sportspeople. Land ownership comes with responsibilities expressed well by the SWCD slogan: "Along with the right to own comes the duty to serve."



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WILDLIFE DAMAGE REVIEW'S MISSION IS TO BRING MUCH-NEEDED PUBLIC SCRUTINY TO THE FEDERAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL PROGRAM (ADC) ADMINISTERED UNDER THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THIS TAX PAYER SUPPORTED PROGRAM WAS MADE OFFICIAL BY CONGRESS IN 1931 IN ORDER TO "ERADICATE, SUPPRESS AND CONTROL" WILDLIFE SPECIES FOR THE SAKE OF AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS. DRIVEN BY PREDATOR PREJUDICE, ADC IS OUT OF STEP WITH THE TIMES AND ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE, AND UNACCOUNTABLE IN ITS PROCESSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. DUE TO ADC'S ABSOLUTE RELUCTANCE TO CHANGE DIRECTION TOWARD A PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES NONLETHAL SERVICES TO CORRECT BAD ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES, WDR'S GOAL IS TO ABOLISH THIS SECRETFIVE PROGRAM AND THE MENTALITY BEHIND IT — A "PREDATOR PREJUDICE" WHICH FUELS THE USE OF TRAPS, SNARES, AERIAL GUNNING AND POISONS ON AMERICA'S WILDLIFE.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ADC?

Check out our new web site (address above).

And here are some reports that can help (all prices include postage):

"Waste, Fraud and Abuse in the U.S. Animal Damage Control Program"--\$5

"Audit of the USDA Animal Damage Control Program"--\$5

"Investigating J.F.K. International Airport Gull Hazard Reduction Program"--\$5

"War on Wildlife", an hour-long audio CD; interviews about ADC--free to WDR members.

"Report on the Aquaculture Industry"--\$5

Best known for buying land to preserve rare and threatened species or habitat values, the "Conservancy" seems to be shifting its priorities: purchasing easements of ranch properties to preserve a lifestyle available to the lucky few who have inherited chunks of ranch land from their great-grandparents.

We all want to see preservation of "open space" incorporated into growth plans, but at what cost? When cow and sheep-burnt lands are purchased for the purpose of perpetuating destructive practices, instead of looking toward healing and resting lands, we and other organizations are questioning the validity of rampant "fear of ranchette development" as the alternative. We think that there are choices somewhere in between.

This bumpersticker epitomizes the conflict we've experienced in Arizona and what is beginning to happen in other western states. It will anger some, but our intent is to stimulate the thinking process toward better options.

Send us \$1 for this bumpersticker and start bugging your local conspirators to trade their cowboy hats for a good thinking cap!



*Servicing America's
Ranching Industry*